losses during the last two financial years;

(b) if so, what is the amount of losses incurred, year-wise and unit-wise during these years;

(c) whether the reason for such losses has been ascertained; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to increase their profitability?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) As per the Public Enterprises Survey 1983-84, placed on the Table of the House on 15.3.85, the public enterprises, on an overall basis, have made net profits both during 1983-84 and 1982-83. The provisional assessment made based on quick estimates for 1984-85 shows further improvement in profits. Thus, the overall position is one of profits and not of losses though there are some enterprises which have incurred losses during these years.

(b) The details for 1983-84 and 1982-83 are available in Statements 2.7A and 2.7B at pages No. 52 to 56 of Volume-1 of Public Enterprises Survey 1983-84.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government have been taing various steps to improve the performance of these enterprises. Some of them are:

(i) The Government have constituted a number of indepth study teams to go into specific causes of continued low capacity utilisation wherever noticed and to recommend short-term and long-term remedial measures.

(ii) Various aspects of the management of these enterprises including change in personnel, structure of the organisation etc. whereever necessary are constantly being reviewed.

(iii) Additional investments are provided for balancing facilities and captive power plants wherever justified. The Government has also taken several steps to improve the power situation; mention may be made of the following steps, viz.,

(a) Generation of additional capacity

(b) Plant modernisation

(c) Training

(d) Improving maintenance operation of thermal plants etc.

(iv) Technology upgradation modernisation and rehabilitation of plant and equipment and diversification of products are undertaken whenever considered appropriate.

(v) Periodic performance review meetings are undertaken by the concerned administrative ministries at the level of the Secretary/Minister.

Working of rural branches of commercial banks

766. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been made to the Reserve Bank of India about problems being faced in the implementation of anti-poverty and rural development programmes by such rural branches of commercial banks where only one officer-cum-manager is posted;

(b) what is the total number of rural branches in the country and how many of them are one-officer manned branches (known as one-man branches); and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to overcome these difficulties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. As on 28.2.1985 the total number of rural branches of the Scheduled Commercial Banks was 28116. The information relating to number of one officer manned branches is not readily available and the same would be laid on the table of the house to the extent possible.

Production of Natuarl Rubber

767. SHRI M. M. JACOB: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total quantity of natural rubber produced in India during the year 1984-85; and

(b) what was the total consumption of natural rubber by industries in India during the year 1984-85?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Production of natural rubber in India during the year 1984-85 was estimated at 1,86,450 tonnes.

(b) Consumption of natural rubber by industries in India during 1984-85 was estimated at 2,17,510 tonnes.

Establishment of regional rural Banks in Gujarat

768. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals are pending with Government or the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development for the establishment of new Regional Rural Banks (Gramin Banks) in Gujarat State;

(b) if so, what is the number of such proposals which are pending and since when; and

(c) by when these proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) No proposal for setting up of new Regional Rural Banks in Gujarat is pending with the Government. A proposal from the State Government suggesting coverage of three districts anmely Ahmedabad, Vadodra and Kheda is under examination with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development since April, 1984 and a final view in the matter will be taken as early as possible.

Beneficiaries under the DRI Scheme

769. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total finance provided by the commercial banks under the Differential Rate of Interest Scheme of 4 per cent interest and also the number of beneficiaries at the end of 1984;

(b) whether this amount has reached 1 percent ratio of the total advances made by the banks as set out by the Government of India; and

(c) if so, whether banks have been asked to finance further under this scheme to benefit the weakest of the weaker sections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) As per the provisional data furnished by Reserve Bank of India the balance outstanding of the public sector banks under the Differential Rate of Interest Scheme stood at Rs. 443.56 crores in 42,98 lakhs accounts. as at the end of 1984. The target of outstanding credit under the Scheme is 1 per cent of the advances out standing at the end of the previous year. This target has been achieved.